

## NEW YORK HERALD.

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## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—The Gamblers.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street.—The Van Winkle-Comical Opera.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Spaulding &amp; Bowen's Equivocal Figures—Monsters of St. Michael.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Fast Men of the Olden Time.

LAFAYETTE THEATRE, No. 624 Broadway.—Satan's Sisters.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Peterson's Five-Lappers.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Pay and Receive—The Sea of Ice—Ante Children—Living Comedians, &amp;c.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—Bullfinch, Fanny, Dan, &amp;c.—JACK LAD.

HOOLEY &amp; CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS, Niblo's Garden, Broadway.—Fanny, Dan, &amp;c.—Bullfinch, Fanny, Dan, &amp;c.—JACK LAD.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 661 Broadway.—Sons, Dances, Burlesques, &amp;c.

MELBOURN, No. 53 Broadway.—Sons, Dances, Burlesques, &amp;c.

New York, Friday, December 28, 1860.

## The News.

The most intense excitement existed yesterday throughout the country, caused by intelligence from Charleston that Major Anderson, the commander of the fortifications in the harbor of that city, had abandoned Fort Moultrie and occupied Fort Sumpter—a more formidable position. Before leaving the fort he spiked the guns and burned the gun carriages. Captain Foster and a few men were left in charge of the works. When the action of Major Anderson became known in Charleston, the excitement was intense. Several military companies were ordered out, and it is reported that military corps from the interior have been ordered to Charleston. On the receipt of the news in Washington the President called the Cabinet together for deliberation. Up to ten o'clock last night, however, the government had received no official information on the subject, and consequently could not act. It is supposed that communication between Major Anderson and the capital has been cut off. The South Carolina Commissioners to Washington were highly indignant when they heard of the abandonment of the fort, regarding it as a violation of certain pledges alleged to have been given by the administration, and as an overt act of war.

Both houses of Congress were in session yesterday. In the Senate a bill to provide for the Territorial government of Arizona was taken up. Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, moved as an addition to the bill that the act of the Legislature of New Mexico for the protection of slave property be in force in Arizona. Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, moved as an amendment that the Mexican law in force at the time of annexation remain in force till Arizona becomes a State. Mr. Douglas, of Wisconsin, took the floor and delivered a speech on the present troubles of the country. Messrs. Brown and Green also took part in the discussion. Adjourned till Monday. In the House, Mr. Stevens, the delegate from Washington Territory, raised a question of privilege in relation to a charge in a Boston paper connecting the Breckinridge National Committee with the recent frauds on the Interior Department. He repelled the slander with considerable warmth, but as the House has decided that newspaper articles are not privileged questions, no action was taken on the subject. On motion of Mr. Morris, chairman of the select committee to investigate in reference to the Interior Department robbery, said committee was allowed to sit during the sittings of the House, either in Washington or elsewhere, and to employ a stenographer. In committee the Indian Appropriation bill was taken up; but as there was no quorum present the House adjourned till Monday. The steamship City of Manchester, from Liverpool on the 12th and Queenstown on the 13th inst., arrived at this port early yesterday morning. Her arrivals are anticipated.

The mails by the Canada, which arrived at Boston on Wednesday evening, reached this city yesterday morning, placing us in possession of European files to the 15th inst.

We publish this morning a very interesting account of the capture of Pekin and the sacking of the Emperor's palace, by which it will be seen that the Allies obtained a large amount of spoil, the lion's share falling to the French. The particulars of the capture and treatment of the five English officers and the London Times correspondent will be read with interest.

In consequence of the pressure upon our columns this morning, we are compelled to omit several interesting despatches from our correspondents in the principal cities of Europe. From them we learn that the great Powers are actively preparing for a struggle in the spring, to be inaugurated by Garibaldi's promised attack on Venice. Our Naples correspondent states that the reactionary movement was on the increase, and that a serious rupture between the Garibaldians and the Neapolitan authorities was imminent.

The English press continue to discuss the secession question, and we give this morning the recent effusions of the London journals upon that exciting topic. The commercial news is not important, the main points having already been given.

The coroner's inquest on the killing of Patrick O'Neil by Louis Harsh, at Williamsburg, on Christmas day, was concluded yesterday. The principal witness was the father of the accused, who positively testified to the stabbing of O'Neil by his son. The prisoner was committed on the verdict to await the action of the Grand Jury.

The Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction have adopted a new system of dispensing relief to the outdoor poor. The applicant is given a paper with all the usual questions printed on it, which is to be returned with the necessary answers. If these are found satisfactory, upon the visit of the examiner, the relief is handed to the applicant. As the number of applicants for relief at the office of the Commissioners is very considerable this season, the regulation saves much labor, time and trouble. The number of persons under the care of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction at present is 8,288—an increase of 162 within a week. The number admitted to the public institutions during the past week was 1,953, and those discharged, transferred or deceased in the same period numbered 1,791.

The Board of Aldermen held their regular session at the usual hour yesterday afternoon. Considerable discussion took place as to the condition of the city roads and the sum of money appropriated for their repair. A communication was received from the Comptroller, requesting the transfer of certain funds, amounting to the sum of \$24,000, to some other accounts whose appropriations have been exhausted. Referred to the Committee on Finance. A proposition from the Comptroller to procure a new carriage for Horse No. 12 was agreed to. It was agreed that two lamps be placed in front of the German Lutheran church. A question then arose as to the necessity for extending the time for building a new station house; but in the midst of the discussion Alderman Brady made a motion to adjourn, which was carried. It is understood that the Japanese bill yesterday received the signature of acting Mayor Peck, Mayor Wood being absent at the time. The Board stands adjourned to Monday next.

The Board of Councilmen were in session last evening, when the Street Commissioner sent in a communication, in which he stated that the ex-

cesses incurred in laying out Broadway square have amounted to \$2,432, and that the park can be opened to the public about the 1st of June. The Corporation Council, in reply to a resolution of inquiry, stated that the Fire Commissioners had not the power to disband a company, but that they could expel individual members. The Board concurred with the Aldermen in refusing to ratify the decision of the Fire Commissioners disbanding engine companies Nos. 13 and 21. A resolution remitting the assessment upon St. Luke's Hospital, amounting to \$4,700, was adopted; also a resolution appropriating \$3,000 to purchase a steam fire engine for Engine company No. 24. The Street Commissioner was directed to purchase five thousand feet of Grenoble hose for the Fire Department. They concurred to appropriate \$1,000 to purchase a hand engine for Engine Company No. 3. After disposing of a large amount of routine business, the Board adjourned till Monday.

A special meeting of the New York Sanitary Association was held last evening, for the purpose of hearing special reports on the formation of female sanitary mission societies, for the purpose of instructing the families of the ignorant the principles and practice of domestic hygiene. The Rev. Dr. Bellows, Hon. James T. Brady, Hon. Mr. Conklin, Dr. Post, and a host of other celebrities, addressed the meeting. The reports were adopted, and at a late hour they adjourned.

The Police Commissioners yesterday dismissed from the force A. S. Hotchkiss, patrolman, and received the resignation of Captain McKilney, both of the Twentieth ward. Thomas Houston, patrolman of the Sixteenth ward, sent in his resignation. James McSiren was appointed roundsman in the Seventeenth ward, and officer Joseph Teaboe placed upon the pension list. No other business was transacted.

The Blackman will case was up before the Surrogate yesterday again, to the exclusion of all other business throughout the day. The evidence elicited, however, was merely corroborative of the testimony already published in the HERALD.

The cotton market was again firmer yesterday, and closed at higher rates. The reduced stock in this market tended to check sales from store, and the heaviest sales were made in transit. The transactions embraced about 4,000 bales, including about 3,000 in transit. We saw quite middling uplands at 11½c. which shows a gain over the lowest depression of 1½c. per lb. This, on the supposition that about three millions of bales remain in the country, amounts to \$2 75 per bale, or equal to \$20,250,000 when applied to the whole amount. The restoration of peace in China will open up an active demand for cotton goods, both from this country and from Europe, which will tend to increase the demand for raw cotton, and to add to the anxiety regarding its future supply. Flour was in good request, and shipping brands of common to medium grades of State and Western were firmer, and closed at an advance of about 5c. a 10c. per bbl., and in some cases as much as 15c. Wheat was in good request, and from 1c. to 2c. per bushel higher. Corn was firmer and more active. Pork was firmer, with sales of new hams at \$10 a \$10 25, and new prime at \$12 50, and old at \$10 25. Muttons closed with more steadiness, with a fair amount of engagements. Sugar was in better request, with sales of 1,200 a 1,400 lbs. Cane, at rates given in another column.

## The Revolution in South Carolina—Abandonment of Fort Moultrie by Major Anderson.

Yesterday the city of New York, and no doubt the whole country wherever the news reached was thrown into a state of the utmost excitement by intelligence from Charleston of the evacuation and destruction of Fort Moultrie, and an impression prevailed for some time that the fort had been captured by the citizens of South Carolina. But on receipt of later news it turned out that Fort Moultrie had not been attacked, but was voluntarily abandoned by Major Anderson, both for military and political reasons. He removed his troops to Fort Sumpter at night, and left a small force to spike the guns, burn the gun carriages and dismantle Fort Moultrie. It was believed at Charleston that it was intended to blow up the works, but our latest advices do not mention that this had been done.

The military reason assigned for removing the troops to Fort Sumpter is, that Fort Moultrie could not be held with Fort Sumpter in possession of the revolutionists, the latter fort commanding the other, owing to its greater elevation, and besides being considered of such strength that a bombardment from Fort Sumpter could have no effect upon it. Fort Sumpter was only occupied by a few troops and laborers till Major Anderson took possession of it, and it might at any moment have fallen into the hands of the people of Charleston.

The political reason assigned by Major Anderson himself is, that this movement loosed the Gordian knot, and put an end to the danger of an immediate collision between the United States troops and those of South Carolina. For Fort Sumpter is impregnable against any armament which the Palmetto State can at present bring against it, though Sullivan's Island, on which Fort Moultrie is situated, commands the outer entrance to the harbor, and is regarded by many military authorities as the key of the place. It was here, in 1776, that Colonel Moultrie, in obedience to Governor Rutledge and his own genius, won for himself imperishable renown by defeating the fort, contrary to the advice of so able a military leader as General Lee, who regarded it as utterly untenable against the British fleet. It was a mere rude work of earth and sand and palmetto logs; but, commanded as it was, it defeated nine British ships, one of which was burned. We perceive from our report of the revolutionary Convention, now sitting at Charleston, that the question of the State taking immediate military possession of Fort Moultrie and Sullivan's Island was being considered in secret session.

Till a late hour last evening it was believed here that Major Anderson had acted under the special instructions of the President. But by an important despatch we received from Washington, dated eight o'clock, we learned that Major Anderson not only acted altogether on his own responsibility, but contrary to express orders, for which it is possible he will be removed from command of the station, as the citizens of Charleston are greatly exasperated, and consider it an act of war unless disavowed by the President. It appears that Mr. Buchanan, adhering to the policy of his Message, directed the commandant to act only on the defensive, and not to remove the garrison or take any steps unless he was attacked.

Had the course which Major Anderson adopted been in obedience to the orders of the President, it would have brought the revolution in South Carolina to a crisis, and that State would be compelled either to recede or come to an immediate collision with the federal government. As the matter now stands, a collision is not inevitable, and time may be gained for the restoration of amicable relations. Our despatch says it will be next to impossible to prevent a collision, and that an attack will be made on the forts by the excited people. But it is to be hoped the citizens of Charleston will be restrained by wiser counsels from any course

which may precipitate civil war. Besides, it is not in their power to take Fort Sumpter without ships of war, nor perhaps even with them.

It is a curious fact, illustrative of the present revolutionary condition of South Carolina, that, up to the date of our latest advices from Washington, the President had received no official statement from Charleston touching the events which had taken place there, communication having been cut off from Major Anderson, and the telegraph being in the hands of the revolutionists. Mr. Buchanan was indebted for his information to a despatch received by the Commissioners from the revolutionary Convention. Thus does the revolution advance with rapid strides. How or where it will end, Heaven only knows. Meantime, such is the situation of affairs, that it requires the prompt interposition of the statesmanship, the wisdom and the patriotism of the country to avert the horrible calamity of civil war.

## The South Carolina Treaty Commissioners to Washington.

The State Convention, now in session in South Carolina, assuming the functions of an independent national government, has detailed three special commissioners, or envoys extraordinary, to Washington, to arrange, if possible, the terms of a treaty of peace. The Commissioners, Messrs. Barnwell, Adams and Orr, are empowered to treat with the President for the conveyance of the mails through South Carolina; for the surrender of the federal fortifications within her limits to the State; for the recognition of her independence, and for reciprocal commercial regulations between the United States and the seceded State, as, for example, between England and France.

The three Commissioners entrusted with these comprehensive duties have arrived in Washington, are quartered "in a fine mansion on Franklin row, near the President's house," and come prepared there to remain for only a few days, or for many weeks, as circumstances may require. The President, it is understood, will receive them informally; will hear what they have to say, and will submit the facts, in a special message, to both houses of Congress. He will doubtless tell these envoys extraordinary that he has not a shadow of authority to recognize them as ambassadors from a foreign State; that him, as President of the United States, the secession of South Carolina amounts to nothing; that that State is still one of the States of the Union, and cannot be cut off except through the terrible process of revolution, and that in receiving these Commissioners, even informally, he is conceding much for the sake of peace.

It is further understood that the message of the President on this subject, when presented to the two houses, will, in each, be laid upon the table, in accordance with the practice of disposing of any paper of which they can take no other notice. A motion to lay on the table admits of no debate, or otherwise this anticipated extraordinary message would unquestionably give rise to an exciting revolutionary discussion, especially in the Senate, where the active sympathizers with these Southern secession movements number, perhaps, more than one-third of the body, exclusive of the two retired Senators from South Carolina. Under the rules of the two houses, then, this expected message will, in all probability, be so promptly disposed of as to authorize the Commissioners in question to return home, within a day or two, and report to their State Convention substantially that, not having been received in their capacity of foreign ambassadors at Washington, the recognition by the government of the United States of the separate nationality of South Carolina must be otherwise accomplished.

We apprehend, too, that this is the result of this commission anticipated by the South Carolina State Convention, and that the object of the commission is the official warning which is deemed necessary to justify the more decisive revolutionary acts contemplated by the seceded State. We cannot suppose that there is a solitary member of the South Carolina Convention who entertains any hope of the official recognition of these three would-be foreign ambassadors, either by the President or by Congress. The late annual message of Mr. Buchanan on this subject of secession is conclusive. He cannot recognize South Carolina as outside the Union. On the contrary, his official oath requires him to "see that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed;" and these laws make no distinction between the port of Charleston and the port of New York.

Secession means revolution. The act of secession on the part of South Carolina is a revolutionary act; and, like that of our general Declaration of Independence of 1776, it is a declaration which has to be made good before it can be recognized by the repudiated general government. In this view of the subject the President would be justified, legally, in closing the doors of the White House against these South Carolina Commissioners, and in warning them to beware of the penalties of treason. But Mr. Buchanan is actuated by that spirit of patriotism which seeks conciliation rather than coercion as the true method of restoring and perpetuating the Union. Hence he will receive these South Carolina Commissioners informally, in order to call the attention of Congress to the actual facts involved in the present revolutionary attitude of said State, and that the two houses may be duly impressed with the necessity of the speedy adoption of some measures for the pacific restoration of the Union, and, meantime, for the maintenance or abandonment of the federal authority in the seceded State or States, so far as a wise discretion may suggest.

Mr. Buchanan can find neither constitutional law for, nor political expediency in, a resort to coercion against a seceding State; nor can he or anybody else. The constitution declares, however, that individuals within the United States, in "levying war against the United States," or in "giving aid and comfort to their enemies," are guilty of treason. Under this provision, the individuals concerned in an attack upon the federal forts at Charleston, and all others aiding and abetting said assailants, would be liable to arrest, trial and punishment as traitors. This is the law; but a wise discretion often teaches moderation where the law demands its penalties. Thus we see that Mr. Buchanan, to the full extent of his constitutional limitations, is stretching the exercise of a kind forbearance.

He might have thrown a thousand or ten thousand men upon Sullivan's Island for the defence of Fort Moultrie; but instead of this exasperating measure, no additional troops were sent to Charleston, and now that fort is aban-

doned, and its garrison is withdrawn to a fort so far off in the water and so strong as not to invite an attack. But in this proceeding the South Carolina State Convention will understand the interpretation put upon their ordinance of an independent nationality by President Buchanan. This interpretation is, that said ordinance signifies nothing, and that the federal authority within South Carolina, short of the intervention of Congress, can only be extinguished by force of arms.

The South Carolina Commissioners will return home from Washington unrecognized as ambassadors representing any legitimate authority. And what then? Perhaps a bombardment of Fort Sumpter, or an assault, in order to "precipitate the cotton States into a revolution." This is the danger to be feared. In the meantime it will be seen that while maintaining the federal authority in South Carolina, Mr. Buchanan is doing all that he can do to avoid the responsibility of giving or inviting the first blow, which may involve us all in the horrors of a civil war. Let this Congress and the incoming administration act accordingly, and the Union may yet be saved.

## The Effect Upon New York City of the Present Crisis.

Real estate in this metropolis is valued at about five hundred millions of dollars. Range through the stores, warehouses and manufactories of the city, and an equal amount of property would doubtless be discovered. Count up the securities that are held by our capitalists, in which our moneyed men have investments, which form everywhere the basis of New York enterprise, on sea and on land, which enable us to decree bankruptcy or well being to the central and to State governments, and another five hundred million might be easily added. It may not be amiss to put down two thousand millions of dollars as a gross aggregate of the property held or controlled in this commercial capital of the Western Continent. And this prodigious, unparalleled argosy of wealth is being tossed to and fro upon the waves of sectional strife and discord, which threaten its engulfment in an abyss from whence it never can be recovered. The storm, scarcely begun to rage, has inaugurated a panic which has already reduced the prices of merchandise, prostrated the stock market, alarmed holders of real estate, caused subscribers to a government loan to withdraw their subscriptions, driven thousands of laborers from employment, introduced retrenchment into every household, paralyzed commerce, stagnated trade, closed manufactories, and thrown gloom over an entire section of country. If the evil continues for three months more, to what extent will disaster have progressed? If the peaceful administration of Mr. Buchanan is succeeded by a government of coercion; if Mr. Lincoln shall adopt the views and the policy which are suggested to him by the greater number of the republican organs of the North, what will become of the prosperity which has been the steady growth of the industry and sagacity of over eighty years?

It is too evident that an active, mischief making republican minority are bent upon increasing the difficulties between the North and the South, and that under their auspices the country is not only menaced with a dissolution of the Union and a secession of the slaveholding States, but also with civil war. Not contented with belligerent manifestoes, the ultra-republican press is daily becoming more and more vituperative in its advocacy of the extreme measures to reduce the slave States to submission to the doctrines laid down in the Chicago platform. They appeal to the inexorable logic of Sharpe's rifles, grooved cannon and the bayonet, and repudiate reflection, argument, truth and facts. They invent falsehoods to render the administration of Mr. Buchanan unpopular; exaggerate abuses and magnify into undue importance every outburst which caters to their own diabolical, bloody fancies. They pretend to foreshadow the policy of the incoming administration as substituting the blood red flag of civil war for the stars and stripes that float over the Capitol, and confidently predict that the "irrepressible conflict" will be carried out with a ruthless barbarity which John Brown himself would have hesitated to sanction. They refuse to yield one jot to the just requirements of an incensed, outraged South, and call "insane," "traitors" and "sold to slavery" all who would seek to save the country from the ruin which their incendiary aggressions have conjured over its destiny.

Yet it stands forward as the inevitable result of this long continued, monstrous political mischief making, that the city of New York is guilty of palpable suicide in permitting it to continue. If the wealth of this metropolis is two thousand millions of dollars now, it will incur a loss of over half that amount within a year, if the fires which have already begun to burn at Fort Moultrie are not immediately extinguished. The period has passed for critical examination of the degree of blame to be cast upon any particular community, and the time has come to ask whether we must all go to wreck in behalf of a fanaticism which is gradually tending towards the direst anarchy. A little longer, and real estate will have decreased fifty per cent in value. A short indulgence further in uncivilized language, proud boasting, and cowardly cackling about coercion, of those who never would dare to shoulder a gun, and the weight in merchandise under which our storehouses groan will be condemned to rot there, and it will be of no worth to either producer, agent or consumer. Public securities are already shaken to their centre. It needs but a few steps in advance towards the era of "famine, fire and slaughter" to render them so much waste paper. Where will our metropolis be then? Against whom will the outcry be directed which points at present away from forbearance to the strong arm of martial law?

The time is rapidly passing. Only nine weeks and a half will elapse before the time when Mr. Lincoln hopes to be inaugurated President of the United States. We are in the midst of revolutionary disaster, and every hour is rendering the danger greater. Not only the city and State of New York, but the whole West and Northwest, are interested to stay the progress of destruction. If ruin awaits us here, still greater is the peril to the country behind us, which will soon see its produce without a market, its securities and investments without purchasers, and its outlets for enterprise closed up. The blow which falls first upon us will shake the fabric of American prosperity to its very centre, and there will be no corner of the land unaffected by it. It is high time, therefore, for the people to act and take the matter into their

own hands, before the bloody strife actually begins and places the peaceful settlement of the quarrel between North and South beyond their control. The news which we publish elsewhere proves manifestly that Congress is no longer to be relied on; that the government is powerless; and that unless the people of every city and town, but especially the masses of New York, arise in their might, appoint committees and vigilance committees of public safety, and insist upon peace and harmony, there are horrors before us which the imagination shrinks from contemplating.

Above all things it is in the power of Mr. Lincoln, even now, to plant himself upon a sure, safe foothold; to consider the imminence of the emergency; to soar above the petty shackles of party, and to be, what Washington, Madison and Jefferson have been before him, a father to the people. He can still, by raising his voice in time, be the instrument of guiding the country back to its pristine condition, and, by recommending to both South and North such amendments to the constitution as shall define and maintain forever the rights of each, carve out for himself a name which shall stand high in the history of this confederation. But, above all things, he should array his influence against every tendency opposed to conciliation, forbearance, and the largest amount of toleration by different sections of the respective institutions of each.

## THE NEWS FROM MEXICO—THE LIBERALS AGAIN CHECKED.—A few days ago every one thought the days of the church party in Mexico were numbered.

After the fall of Guadalajara, the flight of Castillo with a small remnant of his forces, and the rout of Marquez, the road to the capital was thrown open to the advancing liberals, who, to the number of twenty-five thousand men, flushed with repeated victories, advanced on the last stronghold of their opponents, who could not have had more than one-third that number with which to defend the last prop that remained to the tottering fortunes of Miramon. The capital was invested in the beginning of the present month, and no doubt Ortega sat down before its walls with a mind perfectly at ease as to the result. From the reports furnished us of the desertions from Miramon's army and the disorganized state in which it is represented to have been, and which each day must have increased, we awaited with confidence the news of the speedy fall of the city, the annihilation of the clergy regime and the inauguration of an era of peace. But "man proposes and God disposes." We had always half suspected that Miramon had genius. That he has great energy and indomitable pluck cannot be denied, whatever may be his faults; yet, according to all human appearances, nothing short of a miracle could save him now. But genius and energy work miracles. Surrounded by a force three times the number of his own, led by the best generals in the republic, his own valour and faithfulness, Miramon's courage never for a moment quailed; but, taking a few of the most reliable, he issues quietly from his stronghold, and, inspiring his men with his own impetuous valor, pours down on his unsuspecting sluggard enemy, and retires with twelve hundred of them in his clutches, including three general officers, two of them being the well known Degollado, late Commander-in-Chief, and Herrero. This, in a military way, is a severe blow to the liberals, who, however, never were a match for Miramon's consummate military ability. He has always thrashed them in the field. But on this occasion he has been too successful; for in taking Degollado from the liberal army he has done a signal service to that cause. From his imbecility as a leader, his meddling and imperious conduct, Degollado has done more mischief to his party than would half a dozen such disasters as that which Miramon has just inflicted on them. If the liberals could just manage to get all their troublesome and incompetent leaders off their hands in the same manner they would advance their cause no little. They may thank their stars they have got rid of Degollado.

Notwithstanding this check, the liberal cause is not retarded in the least; for, with all his prestige and genius, Miramon can do nothing, unless backed by material aid, which he sadly needs, and we still expect to hear of the fall of the city and the flight or capture of the "Young Lion" of the church; unless, as is possible, the morale of the liberal army should be injured and the men affected by a cowardly dread of Miramon's very name, and that terror in the presence of an enemy superior in genius and skill which is common enough in the military annals of the world.

A WORD TO THE CENTRAL PARK COMMISSIONERS.—In our younger days, before people improved upon nature, built bridges for no earthly purpose except to spend money, and planted trees where they would not grow, the boys used to count upon skating when the weather was clear and the thermometer for several days in succession stood below the freezing point. It has remained for the Central Park Commissioners, their agents or servants, to change all that. They regard nature as a hounding, and her operations, summer and winter, as utterly stupid. Nature feels disposed to give the skaters some of their sport on Christmas day, and as many as ten or fifteen thousand people go to the Park, either to join in the sport or to look on. But nature is not allowed to have her own way. The Central Park authorities might easily have prepared the lakes on Monday by sweeping the ice and then letting on an inch or two of water—nature would have done the rest—and many people who may not have another skating holiday during the winter would have gone home in a pleasant state of mind. As it was, everybody was disgusted, and used very strong language, all of which we endorse. It is very odd that we never can have a public work conducted on the simple plan which is adopted by business men engaged in a private enterprise. The Park Commissioners make a great parade of their arrangements, and give the public everything it desires—except ice to skate upon. The public will be very glad to forego the other arrangements provided they can have the ice. Why will not the Commissioners appoint a special skating committee to see that the Christmas blunder does not occur again, and as we have had since last Saturday, the opportunity for the public to enjoy mainly sport upon its own property? To the fancy that the title to the Park has not been vested in the Commissioners, and that the people have still some interest in it.

## THE PROGRESS OF REVOLUTION AND REVOLUTION.

The political revolution is progressing, and, as day after day passes without hope or prospect of amending the condition of the country, we are drawing nearer to the vortex, on the verge of which we stand to-day. South Carolina has already gone out of the Union and calls herself a foreign nation; other Southern States are only biding their time to follow her. The border States of the South are at this moment taking counsel on the question of preventing the inauguration of Lincoln, and everything in the future, so far as any one can see, forebodes civil war. The prospect is gloomy, discouraging and alarming.

Meantime, apace with the revolution, grows the commercial revolution, hourly extending its influence to every branch of industry and commerce. Factories are suspending work, business is declining, and operatives are being discharged. Within a few days three or four sugar houses in this city have failed, and perhaps as many more houses in other trades. Failures to the amount of four or five millions of dollars have occurred in this great metropolis alone almost, we may say, within one week, and necessarily the number of people thrown out of employment must have been proportionately large.

There is a peculiarly abominable failure of the sugar houses, and that is, that it was brought about by a depreciation in the price of sugar, and that depreciation is the result of political causes. So, too, undoubtedly, houses in other branches of business have suffered from depreciation in the value of staple articles, for depreciation of property is the order of the day. In the present doubtful aspect of affairs it would be impossible to expect that the old system of credit could be maintained. In a time that knows no defined future there can be no such thing as credit. Unstable at all times, as it has been employed in this country, it becomes worthless in this crisis; and, although money is plenty, as it rarely was ever before—though we received some six millions of gold from Europe within the past few weeks, and will probably get as much more in the two or three weeks to come—of what avail is it? It will not relieve the pressure.

This revolution and revolution are advancing hand in hand; nor is there anything being done to stay them. Congress is ineffective for good. The administration is paralyzed. The President elect—who, if he had the wisdom of a statesman and the virtue of a patriot, could rescue the country from impending ruin—is silent, either through an obstinacy and miserable attachment to party interests which mislead him, or an indifference which is unworthy of his position. People are suggesting various modes to improve the sad condition of affairs. Some propose humiliation and prayer; but they will not pay notes when they fall due, nor bring manna from heaven in these days of all hungry mouths. Others are in favor of reopening the houses for religious revivals; but religious exercises will not meet bills of exchange nor set factories to work. It is true this may produce some effect upon the abolition fanatics, who, for the last thirty years, have been working to bring about the present disaster; but that is all that can be hoped from them; and if there is no trade or business to be attended to, perhaps people might as well go to the religious revivals as occupy their time in any other way.

Meantime, as we say, political revolution and commercial revolution are rapidly progressing, without any immediate prospect of being checked. We can see no opening for escape—no certain pathway seems before us—there is no light anywhere. The ship of State is drifting helplessly, it would appear, with dark clouds above and fogs around, and breakers on every side, without a friendly beacon to guide her course, and no man can tell upon what rugged coast she may strike. And all this time, with difficulty besetting us—with which no nation whereof history speaks was surrounded—to make matters worse, we find the public officials at Washington plundering the departments of the government, and everything in apparent confusion, where we might hope to look for assistance, counsel and example in our hour of trial.

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The Trust Fund Robbery Investigation.—Secretary of Legation at Paris.—Despatches from the Brazil Squadron, &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1860.

Mr. Thomas, of Tennessee, has been appointed on the House Committee to investigate the facts connected with the abstraction of bonds, in place of Beck, resigned. They may hold some of their meetings in New York.

I hear to-night that the House Committee of Investigation into the Interior Department frauds have ascertained that this is not the first instance in which the trust fund bonds have been used for speculative purposes. Eight hundred thousand dollars, it is said, were loaned during Mr. Fillmore's administration, and two hundred thousand when Mr. McClelland was secretary, and returned or replaced by others. It is not pretended that either of the secretaries profited by these operations.

Russell's friends assert that his firm have now due them from government for services performed, and property delivered several hundred thousand dollars, exclusive of a claim before Congress of upwards of four hundred thousand dollars for property destroyed in the Utah war, which is recommended by the department as just.

The committee received authority from the House to-day, which will enable them to make an investigation of the most searching character.

Russell is still in jail, bail bond not having yet been executed.

REPRESENTATIVE OF CANTON TO PARIS.

Robert Walsh, who has occupied diplomatic positions in the government under different administrations, has been appointed Secretary of Legation to Paris.

ARRIVING IN BRAZIL.

Despatches have been received at the Department of State from the legation at Brazil. Our Minister, Mr. Meade, is actively engaged in endeavoring to procure an adjustment of the claims of our citizens. Considerable excitement prevailed in the empire in view of an important election for Chamber deputies. The struggle is between liberals and conservatives, the latter claiming for the provinces a larger share in the administration of the local offices, and the former being opposed to them. This state of affairs is analogous to our own content between federal power and State rights.

The Navy Department also received despatches this morning from the legation at Brazil. Our Minister, Mr. Meade, is actively engaged in endeavoring to procure an adjustment of the claims of our citizens. Considerable excitement prevailed in the empire in view of an important election for Chamber deputies. The struggle is between liberals and conservatives, the latter claiming for the provinces a larger share in the administration of the local offices, and the former being opposed to them. This state of affairs is analogous to our own content between federal power and State rights.

Affairs at Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 27, 1860.

Tunniel Uman arrived here to-night and will be in attendance on the President elect to-morrow, to present the claims of the American wing of his New York supporters. Senator Baker was publicly received by his friends this afternoon at the Court House. The hall was densely crowded. In an address occupying three quarters of an hour in delivery, he expressed the earnest devotion of himself and constituents to the Union, renounced the idea of an independent State, and declared emphatically that he would remain loyal to the Union.